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GEORGE W. CROFT

Late a Representative from South Carolina

Memorial Addresses Delivered in the
House of Representatives and Senate

Third Session of the
Fifty-eighth Congress

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DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE W. CROFT

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

THURSDAY, *March 10, 1907.*

The House met at 12 o'clock m.

The Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Conden, D. D., offered the following prayer:

We invoke Thy blessing, Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, upon these Thy servants, that, guided by the light of truth and strengthened by the power from on high, all the deliberations of this House to-day may be in consonance with Thy holy will.

A great sorrow has come to us in the death of one of our Members, and our hearts go out in great sympathy to the bereaved family. We pray Thee that they may be upheld and sustained by the hope of immortality.

Hear us, O Lord, and bless us, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

DEATH OF HON. GEORGE W. CROFT.

Mr. FINLEY. Mr. Speaker, the sad duty is mine to announce to this House the death of the Hon. GEORGE W. CROFT, a Representative from the State of South Carolina, who died this morning at 7.30 o'clock at his residence in this city. Of his worth, of his virtues I shall not speak now, but at some future time I shall ask the House to consider that matter in a suitable manner.

As a mark of respect to him, I offer the following resolutions.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from South Carolina offers the following resolutions, which the Clerk will report:

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House of Representatives has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Hon. G. W. CROFT, a Representative from the State of South Carolina.

Resolved, That the Speaker appoint a committee of thirteen Members to attend the funeral services.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Member the House do now adjourn.

Mr. OVERSTREET. Mr. Speaker, before the question is put, and in view of the special order under which the House has been proceeding, having fixed 4 o'clock this afternoon for a vote, I think it proper to ask unanimous consent that the order heretofore fixed for to-day shall continue to another day. I had said that I would make the suggestion that it apply to-morrow until it was suggested that to-morrow being pension day the committee did not desire to be displaced. I therefore ask unanimous consent that the order applicable to to-day shall be available and continue until Saturday.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection?

Mr. MOON, of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Indiana will allow me to suggest, I think the better idea would be to let Saturday be taken for pensions and the House execute the pending order to-morrow.

Mr. OVERSTREET. I should prefer to let a representative of the Pension Committee state as to that.

Mr. GIBSON. I have no objection.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Indiana asks unanimous consent that the order applicable to-day shall be applicable to-morrow, and that Saturday be devoted to pensions

under the rule. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none.

The question is on agreeing to the first two resolutions offered by the gentleman from South Carolina.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

The Speaker announced the appointment of the following committee: D. E. Finley, Wyatt Aiken, J. T. Johnson, George S. Legare, R. B. Scarborough, A. F. Lever, Henry C. Loudenslager, George R. Patterson, William Richardson, Frank A. McLain, Henry A. Houston, Charles H. Weisse, Amos H. Jackson, and Joseph C. Sibley.

The SPEAKER. The question is on agreeing to the third resolution.

The resolution was agreed to; and accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 10 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned to meet to-morrow at 12 m.

MARCH 11, 1904.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with deep sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. GEORGE W. CROFT, late a Representative of the Second district of the State of South Carolina.

Resolved, That a committee of six Senators be appointed by the President pro tempore to join a committee on the part of the House of Representatives to take order for superintending the funeral of the deceased.

Resolved, That the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

Resolved, As a further mark of respect to memory of the deceased, that the Senate do now adjourn.

And that in compliance with the foregoing the President pro tempore had appointed as said committee Mr. Tillman, Mr. Latimer, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Clarke of Arkansas, Mr. Hopkins, and Mr. McLaurin.

FEBRUARY 9, 1905.

Mr. FINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that at the close of the exercises in memory of the late Representative Mahoney memorial exercises be held on the life and character of the late GEORGE W. CROFT, a Representative from the State of South Carolina.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

SUNDAY, *February 26, 1905.*

The House was called to order at 12 o'clock noon by William J. Browning, Chief Clerk, who announced that the Speaker had designated the Hon. William P. Hepburn as Speaker pro tempore for this day.

Mr. Hepburn took the chair as Speaker pro tempore.

The Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven, we thank Thee for that deep and ever-abiding faith which looks up to Thee as the creator, upholder, and sustainer of all, and for that eternal hope which binds us to Thee by ties which time nor space can sever. "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord." For without these angels from Thy heart, O God, life would be indeed a desert without a single oasis to cheer the weary traveler on his way. With these even the mystery of death is solved, so when it comes and takes away our dear ones we can throw ourselves into the everlasting arms and feel the warm pulsations of a heavenly Father's heart and say:

There is no death! What seems so is transition;
This life of mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life elysian,
Whose portal we call Death.

So send, we beseech Thee, our heavenly Father, these angels to comfort the hearts of the colleagues, friends, and families of those for whom we have gathered here to-day in loving remembrance, and Thine be the praise forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE LATE HON. GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT.

Mr. FINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolutions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. Finley] offers the resolutions which the Clerk will report.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That in pursuance of the special order heretofore adopted, the House now proceed to pay tribute to the memory of Hon. GEORGE W. CROFT, late a Member of this House from the State of South Carolina.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House at the conclusion of the exercises to-day shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Mr. FINLEY. Mr. Speaker, before proceeding with the special order, I ask unanimous consent that leave to print remarks relating to these ceremonies be granted to Members of the House for twenty days.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. Finley] asks unanimous consent that leave to print remarks relating to these ceremonies be granted to Members of the House for twenty days. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

ADDRESS OF MR. FINLEY, OF SOUTH CAROLINA

MR. SPEAKER: On the 10th day of March last the sad duty devolved upon me to announce to the House the death of Hon. GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT, late a Representative from the State of South Carolina. I gave notice then, Mr. Speaker, that at some future time I would ask the House to join in suitable services commemorative of him and as a proper recognition of his distinguished public career.

GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT was born in Newberry County, S. C., on the 20th day of December, 1840. In 1864, when he was a cadet at the South Carolina Military Academy, his education was interrupted by reason of the corps of cadets being mustered into the Confederate service. In this service he continued until the close of the war. Subsequently he spent two years at the University of Virginia. In 1869 he was admitted to the bar and began the practice of his profession at Aiken, S. C., and from then until his death he lived there. Sitting in my seat on this floor yesterday I listened to eloquent and eulogistic addresses on the lives and characters of Austin and Houston, two men of all others most honored by the State of Texas. My distinguished friend from Missouri [Mr. Clark], in his matchless and inimitable style, alluded to the fact that State pride was a characteristic of the people of South Carolina, Massachusetts, Virginia and Texas.

No State can be truly great unless her citizens excel in patriotism and love of truth. Judged by this standard, South Carolina can properly be termed "the imperial State," second to none in all that goes to constitute true greatness. The

proud boast of her citizens is that in making the history of this greatest of great nations this State has always occupied a foremost position. In declaring for freedom in the Revolutionary war she paid the penalty in that struggle of having every section of her territory a battlefield and suffered the loss of at least three-fourths of all the destructible property in her borders. In 1812, when British tyranny had become unendurable, South Carolina spoke through her most gifted and distinguished son, John C. Calhoun, and forced matters to the issue of battle. In the war with Mexico she sent 1,000 men, the valor and chivalry of the State, led by the brave and gallant Pierce Butler. These followed General Scott from Veracruz to the City of Mexico. In storming that city a forlorn hope of sixteen from this regiment were the first inside of the walls. This fact I have from the lips of James A. Thomas, of Harmony, S. C., who participated in that frightful assault.

Likewise, in the greatest of all wars from the standpoint of loss of life and material wealth, the memorable and ever-to-be-regretted war between the States, she lagged not behind, and, Mr. Speaker, in the last war, not the greatest that this country has engaged in—in the war with Spain—she was among the first to send her sons to uphold the flag of the Union and to give freedom to the oppressed Cubans. The one thing that more than all others has given the State of South Carolina her proud position is the fact that in times of stress on all great issues her people stand as a unit. They are united. A notable illustration of this is that notwithstanding a large and respectable minority of her citizens were opposed to secession in 1860, in the civil war that followed South Carolina stands alone as the only State in the Union that did not furnish a single regiment or even a single company to the Union Army.

This unity of the citizens of the State on all great occasions is the one thing more than all others that causes the sons of the State, wherever they go, at all times and in all places, not only to be proud, but, if need be, assert the fact that they are South Carolinians.

GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT in his life measured up to the standard required of her sons by South Carolina. A beardless youth in time of war, he answered the call of the State and shouldered his musket and marched to the front, where, as a brave and gallant soldier, he performed his full duty. When the war was over he accepted the result in good faith and gave to his country the best efforts of his life. Whenever his time and his talents were demanded he gave them freely and without stint. During the reconstruction period in South Carolina, eight years of license, debauchery, and misgovernment by vicious carpetbaggers and ignorant negroes, during which time the people of the State were plundered under the forms of law of an amount equal to one-fourth of the taxable property in the State, GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT, by word and work, performed his full duty in redeeming the State and placing the government once more in the hands of those best fitted to administer it. Faithfully and efficiently he served his people both as a citizen and as an official, and right here I may add that the love and esteem accorded to GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT by the people of his home county, Aiken, by the people of the Second Congressional district, was not confined to the color of a man's skin. White and black regarded him as a citizen wise, courageous, and a lover of truth and right. They looked to him as an exemplar, and all his people, without regard to race, without regard to party, admired, loved, respected, and trusted him.

However, it is only proper for me to say that Colonel CROFT excelled as a lawyer. Now, to enter into a statement of his work, extending over a period of thirty-five years, from 1869 to 1904, the time of his death, would be out of place here. I shall not do that. But it is sufficient for me to say that for thirty-five years he practiced his profession with distinguished ability and success.

The South Carolina bar is one which includes in its membership men whose life work entitles them to a first place among the jurists of the nation. His brethren of the bar recognized the ability of Colonel CROFT and his great legal attainments by electing him more than once to the presidency of the State Bar Association.

After a heated and strenuous contest for the nomination, being opposed by strong men, one of whom was attorney-general of the State and another the solicitor of his circuit, he was elected to the Fifty-eighth Congress. During the short term, a little more than a year, that he represented his district in Congress he studied the wants of his people and gave them efficient and satisfactory service.

I happen to know that one matter dear to the heart of Colonel CROFT, and to which he devoted time and attention, was the reclamation of the swamp lands of his State, and it was his hope that in some way he might be instrumental and helpful in bringing that about. So far as I know, he originated this matter.

Mr. Speaker, the highest proof of the love and esteem in which a Representative should be held is that which his people accord him. We have numbered among Members of this House the Hon. T. G. CROFT, a son of the Hon. GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT. He was sent here by the overwhelming vote of the district over three competitors to fill out the

unexpired term of his distinguished father. A greater tribute than this the people of the Second Congressional district of South Carolina could not pay to the memory of Colonel CROFT.

Mr. Speaker, when paying tribute to the memory and public services of a deceased Member I feel that something should be said in reference to him as an individual. Colonel CROFT in his dealings with his fellow-men was an honest man, kind to all, approachable by all, loved by the poor for the reason that he was their friend.

He was a man of strong religious convictions. I remember well when he lay upon his deathbed at his residence on East Capitol street in this city; I visited him time after time and found him suffering in a way that seemed to be past human endurance. Through it all he was patient and hopeful, and bore it with great fortitude and Christian resignation. He impressed me then as he had never impressed me before with his greatness as a man. In order to be truly tried a man must be doubly tried—in adversity as well as in prosperity, in pain as well as in pleasure. So when GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT lay upon his dying bed, suffering as men can not suffer and live, he gave evidence high and strong of the nobility of soul, of the strength of character that was in him.

He served his God and his country faithfully and well.
"Peace to his ashes."

ADDRESS OF MR. LEVER, OF SOUTH CAROLINA

MR. SPEAKER: Life is a frail arch uniting two eternities—the unknown worlds—that from whence we come when life is vouchsafed to us and that to which we go when, in infinite wisdom, life is denied us. It is the day, begun in the sunshine of the glorious morning and ending in the melancholy shades of evening. It is the smile and the tear, the banquet hall and the silence of the tomb; alike a triumphant song and a mournful elegy.

In the brief time allotted for the pilgrimage between the eternities man writes the story of his life and records the evidence of the manner in which he has used the opportunities given him. He builds his own monument and writes upon it his own epitaph, giving the basis upon which the future must pronounce judgment as to his true worth and character. The record when once made must stand through all the ages, death's seal imparting to it absolute verity. Ardent friends may exaggerate the virtues and lessen the faults, but neither human kindness nor human malevolence can add to or subtract from the record, for the making of which he alone is responsible.

The greatest of all poets has said:

The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones.

That is the dark picture and the judgment of the pessimist. A kindlier philosophy would bury the bad deeds of man and give an endless immortality to his good ones. This is the opinion of the optimist, and it seems entirely in harmony with nature's teaching and the best thought of mankind.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I prefer to believe that real worth does not die, but lives on and on, a rich and ever-increasing legacy for all men for all time.

The pain of this occasion is somewhat soothed in the thought that we are to deal with a character so full of good and so free from vice that what we shall say in praise of his virtues is the true expression of our real feelings and not the strained exaggeration of a mere eulogy.

As a friend, soldier, citizen, lawyer, and legislator GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT richly merits the highest tributes we can pay to departed greatness and goodness.

He lived and labored in the most eventful period of our nation's history.

Born at Newberry, S. C., December 20, 1840, his youthful soul was, no doubt, filled with patriotic zeal as he listened to his elders recount the glorious achievements of the famous Palmetto Regiment from Veracruz to the City of Mexico, over whose doomed walls its flag was the first to float in victory. He saw the rising storm between the two sections of our country, over irreconcilable differences, assume larger and larger proportions until it burst in its awful fury on that fateful morning, January 9, 1861, when from a battery on Morris Island, occupied by the Citadel Cadets, was fired the shot that unfurled the banner of a new nation and announced to the world the commencement of the bloodiest war in the annals of time. He suffered with his State all the horrors of the reconstruction era, and when it was ended caught step with the march of progress that has lifted her from the slough of ruin and despondency and given her a commercial and industrial growth so rapid as to be almost enough to challenge the credulity of the most ardent dreamer. He saw the reconciliation between the sections made certain and complete, when, in mutual hatred of tyranny, the blue and gray joined hands and

hearts to crush into dust the power of despotism in Cuba, and when in the last agonies of dissolution he looked out over the capital, his eyes beheld, floating proudly and serenely in the morning breezes, the flag of a great people, reunited in common purpose to make this the greatest nation on earth.

Living thus in a period of our national life so pregnant with history, progress, and opportunity, it is not surprising that a man in whose soul burned ambition's flame should profit by the advantage of the situation to make for himself a niche in the temple of fame.

Receiving his preparatory education in the common schools, the nursery of the nation's greatest and best men, at Greenville, S. C., where his parents had made their home, he entered the South Carolina Military Academy, and there expected to complete his academic studies.

But, alas, the voice of his State called him from the quiet shades of college life to meet a sterner duty.

The South, drained of men and resources, the incomparable Lee hard pressed in Virginia, Atlanta fallen, and Johnston in dogged retreat, the cause of southern independence was desperate, the sun of her hope fast growing into a precious memory of his once resplendent glory. Sherman's triumphant army reached the waters of the Savannah on February 1, 1865, and on the same day the hostile heel was planted upon the soil of South Carolina, whose defiant voice had called a nation into being. It was to meet this invasion, which afterwards turned itself into a saturnalia of horrors, that the schools and colleges and nurseries gave their precious charges to the State for her defense. The student became a soldier, the beardless youth a brave defender of his State, a heroic sacrifice upon her altar. In response to this call young CROFT, though only 16 years old, donned for the first time the

Confederate uniform, and during the continuance of the struggle wore it with courage and credit.

Mr. Speaker, when the history of chivalry and true courage shall find an impartial author there will be found in it no more inspiring chapter than that which recounts the deeds, the sacrifices, the suffering borne uncomplainingly, the desperate gallantry and unmatched valor of the boy soldiery of the Confederacy. So long as hearts are responsive to noble sentiments the conduct of the boy soldier of the South in the most trying hour of his country's desperation will arouse patriotic inspiration and wring a tribute of respect from the meanest misanthrope. History furnishes no comparison, the fertile brain of the romancer invents no approximation, and the poet gives no equal to him. He is incomparable and stands alone, the best exemplification of moral and physical courage and patriotic devotion the world has ever seen.

When peace again smiled over the land and time began her process of healing, young CROFT resumed his studies, entering the University of Virginia, taking the course in law. Immediately after completing the course at the university he learned the practical side of his profession in the law office of Governor Benjamin F. Perry, himself a profound lawyer and a patriotic and farseeing statesman, whose high character and unselfish zeal in behalf of his conception of his country's best interest no doubt had a salutary effect in giving tendency to the mind and character of his promising protégé, whose career became a fitting tribute to his great preceptor.

In 1869 he stood the bar examination and was admitted to practice in all the courts of the State, and for this purpose he located in Aiken a year later, where he labored faithfully and earnestly the remainder of his life.

This was the darkest day in the civil life of the State; in truth, she was without civil life at all, and this was but the beginning of that six-year period of political night when unlicensed thievery and corruption held high carnival within her borders in the name of law and liberty, "when the South trod with unsandaled feet the burning marl of a political hell unparalleled in all history." In her executive chair sat a political freebooter and thief from Ohio, and in her legislature illiterate negroes, former slaves, and white scalawags interpreted the principle of taxation as legislative license to confiscate private property for the benefit of the legislator. With the strong official arm thus against her, with the wounds of war still bleeding, the flower of her splendid manhood filling soldiers' graves, her agricultural and industrial wealth represented by smoldering ashes and silent chimneys, her chief source of labor demoralized and intolerant with the impudence of newborn power, the majesty of her law crushed and outraged, and life, liberty, and property insecure, the prospect was sufficient to chill the ardor of the rosiest optimist.

Mr. CROFT was not only a pronounced optimist, but a man of infinite courage and caution. For him gloom had no terrors, and seemingly insurmountable difficulties did not shake his abiding faith in the ultimate triumph of right over might. Through the darkness he saw the dawning of a fairer day for Carolina, when banished reason should return to her throne, when intelligence and integrity should sit in her council chambers, and when justice should once again hold the scales and pronounce judgment between man and man.

The conduct of the alien rulers became so monstrously outrageous, so indecent, and so disregardful of personal and property rights that the crushed spirit of the Anglo-Saxon could bear it no longer, and then began that memorable struggle between the

forces of light and the forces of darkness, between intelligence and ignorance, between education, culture, and refinement on the one side, and illiteracy, unbridled force, and impudence on the other—a contest in which the shibboleth was white supremacy and an honest administration of the affairs of the Government.

The culmination and the victory came in 1876, when Gen. Wade Hampton, hero alike in war and in peace, was elected governor. In that mighty conflict Captain CROFT bore a most conspicuous and honorable part, and was intrusted with the important place of chairman of his county executive committee—a position well fitted for his sagacity, courage, and caution. No young man of the State contributed more to her redemption than did he. As captain of the Aiken Volunteers, an organization composed of the best of the county's young manhood, he participated in the unfortunate Ellenton riots, where his conduct was of such a manly and humane character as to extort a word of commendation from the trial judge of those white men, Captain CROFT among them, who had been thrown into a Federal prison because of their connection with the affair.

A product of the antebellum South, he did not waste his talents pining over an irrevocable past, but, accommodating himself to the changed conditions and new requirements, took his place in the forefront of that army of progress whose material victories in the brief space of a generation have made the South blossom as a rose and given her place of vantage in the race for industrial and commercial leadership.

As a business man Mr. CROFT was in measure successful, and accumulated a modest competency.

As a lawyer he stood at the very top of the profession, and was for many years president of the bar association of South Carolina, a position attained only by the most preeminent members of the profession.

His practice was large, perhaps the largest of any lawyer in that part of the State. His intense fidelity to his clients, his fairness to his antagonists, and his high conception of justice won the respect and confidence of all who came in contact with him. Men with large business interests involved in litigation felt safe in putting them into his keeping; the poor, miserable wretch, charged with crime, and seeking justice, liberty, or life, felt half the burden rise from his shoulders when he succeeded in placing the powerful personality of Mr. CROFT between him and ruin, and those unfortunate charges upon charity, when in trouble, always bent their steps toward his office, where a willing ear listened to their sad stories, and a generous hand filled their pockets, or a great and busy man lent himself to go to their defense in court if need be. He was as generous as he was just and received his reward in the universal love of a great people. So fair and just was he in the conduct of a case that his victories came to him without arousing the resentment and bitterness of those he vanquished, and his long service at the bar, where he was engaged on one side or the other of every important case tried in his county for a generation, left him without personal enemies.

He combined in an unusual degree the elements both of the office lawyer and the advocate. His carefully trained mind was at once analytical and comprehensive, his judgment sound, and his conclusions logical and incontrovertible. As a practical business adviser, dealing with intricate business propositions, he took first rank, while his calm persuasive manners, his easy, graceful style, his dispassionate and dignified delivery, his soft, musical voice, his power of happy expression, his genial, wholesome humor, his wide learning, and intense earnestness made him an almost irresistible force before a jury and gave him place among the first orators of the State.

Himself candid and open, he despised hypocrisy and shams and was merciless in uncovering and destroying them, and it is said that on occasions his denunciations of treachery and falsehood on the part of witnesses or litigants reached the point of comparison with the best examples of vehement eloquence. But it was in appealing to the gentler and finer feelings of the heart that he was greatest as an orator, and many are the audiences from which his touching pathos has brought the unbidden tear. He himself was gentle, sympathetic, sentimental, and his manner was such as to impress you with the thought that here is a man in whose breast beats a heart devoid of guile and incapable of any other than noble purposes.

All in all, he was a great lawyer, a credit to any bar, and an honor to his profession.

For a man of such eminent ability and worth and personal popularity his legislative experience was comparatively limited, and is covered by two terms in the State legislature, one year in the State senate, and his brief service in this body. Always an active and earnest participant in every movement looking to the welfare of the State, always alert to combat and arrest any tendency calculated to do her injury or stay her progress, always taking an intelligent interest in every public question, especially if it concerned the more unfortunate class of the people, he seems never to have been possessed with any special desire for public positions. His conscientious belief in the now antiquated idea that political preference should be the voluntary expression of public confidence, coupled with an innate modesty and love for his profession, deprived the State of many years of his valuable service which a confiding people were only too willing she should have.

Brief as was his public service, it was sufficiently long to make for him an enviable reputation as a wise, faithful,

earnest, and patriotic legislator. He approached every public question with the utmost deliberation, and without bias, in an endeavor to so act as to bring the best results for the State. Jealous of the correctness of his own judgment, his pride of opinion was not permitted to stand between him and what was proven best for the interest of all the people. Personal ambition and selfishness were subordinated to the public good. He was not a demagogue, and refused to play for public applause. To do the right was the end and aim of his public life. His coworkers recognized him as a safe, conservative, wise counselor, whose advice was much sought and whose opinions were worth serious consideration. He was a leader both in the senate and house of South Carolina, and, no doubt, if a different fate had been his, would have taken high rank in this body.

His most conspicuous contribution to wise and enduring legislation is his authorship of the first law in South Carolina prohibiting child labor in cotton mills. The effort to legislate in accordance with conditions as they arose met with strong and bitter opposition from powerful influences. To affirm that the State had an interest in and therefore a right to protect its children against a system which denied them fresh air and sunshine and immunity from a grinding toil that sapped their vitality, distorted their intellects, warped their souls, and made life merely an existence, without a hope, without a promise of better reward for faithful service, met a most violent and relentless opposition from that class which, actuated either by ignorance or greed, could see nothing in the tender lives of the children of the State than their capacity for earning a dollar.

Against this powerful opposition GEORGE W. CROFT hurled himself, and fought it with a power and eloquence conceived

in the justness of his cause and delivered out of a great love for the permanent welfare of his State. His speech closing the debate in favor of the bill is without question one of the greatest appeals ever made to a South Carolina legislature. What seemed certain defeat for the cause of the children was turned into victory by his masterful presentation of it, and when all else he ever accomplished shall be forgotten his service in this connection will be remembered in gratitude, and will stand as an imperishable monument to his eloquence and his wisdom as a legislator.

The prestige gained by his leadership in this contest, the universal acknowledgment of his ability, patriotism, and personal character by the people and the press of the State, made his promotion to a wider field of usefulness a foregone conclusion, and in 1902, after a sharp contest with two of the ablest men of the State for the nomination of his party, he was successful, and the choice of the party was ratified in his election to the Fifty-eighth Congress.

In his short service here he made a most favorable impression upon all who came in contact with him. His pleasant address, his eagerness to learn, his quiet, unassuming, though dignified, bearing commanded the admiration of all, and the future seemed full of promise for a career of great credit to himself and value to the nation. But, alas, how uncertain are human calculations; how frail are the foundations upon which it builds! We are but weak children of an all-powerful, all-seeing, all-knowing Father, whose will, not ours, must be done. The day and the hour had come when life's account had to be balanced and the deeds done in the body passed upon by the court of last appeal. To this bar of final judgment our friend was called March 10, 1904, and he responded

with calm, Christian fortitude. "He fell in the fullness of his fame," when the sun of life shone brightest, and each day gave promise of a better morrow. The trials and vicissitudes of life ended, the battle fought, the victory won, he sleeps in the soil of the State and among the people he loved and honored.

ADDRESS OF MR. FRENCH, OF IDAHO

MR. SPEAKER: I arise to offer a word on that which has impressed me most in the life of him whom we commemorate. It was not my privilege to know the deceased well. GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT lived in a State far removed from the one that is my home. I met him shortly after Congress convened in the autumn of 1903. He had just been elected for the first time to represent his district in the National House of Representatives.

Our work soon brought us together, and as the title of a book suggests the message that it bears, so a few general facts connected with the life of Mr. CROFT told much that in eulogy has been spoken of him to-day.

A soldier in the Army, fighting for the principles he loved; a member for two sessions of the lower branch of the State legislature; a member of the State senate; a Member of Congress; president of the bar association of his Commonwealth; leader in public affairs and active participant in the politics of his State—these are captions which, when applied to a man who has passed the meridian of life and which have attended him from early manhood, suggest bravery, courage, ability, learning, perseverance, honor.

I shall not dwell further on those qualities which, popularly speaking, make success in life possible. I would speak of a quality of heart and soul that while it aids in all success yet towers above all other attributes and has for its chiefest object the enriching not of self, but of others. Mr. CROFT possessed that kindly sympathy that made him

understand the sorrow, the joy, the soul movements of his fellow-man.

It made him understand the boy's delights and hopes. It made him feel the vigor of noble manhood struggling for achievement. It made him know the emotions and reflections of him whom age has bowed.

It was that sympathy that prompted him, in the first act that came within my observation, to reach out his hand and aid in placing a boy, struggling amid difficulties, in a position where he could realize his life's dream. It was that sympathy that impelled him throughout life to lay personal ambition aside and say, "My friend first." It was that sympathy that as a boy was shown to two old slaves upon his father's plantation, a sympathy that prompted them in return to journey a distance of 60 miles to rejoice with their young master of fifty years ago in the honor his district had conferred upon him in electing him to Congress. Sixty miles in Pullman coach is a short distance, but to two old men who had seen plantation life before the war with a kind master and free from care it was a memorable journey.

It was that sympathy shown through many years to those of high and low estate that made them, when he had fallen stricken at his post of duty and his casket was brought back to the door of his home, bear his body, as it were, in the arms of all, to its resting place.

The streets of Aiken were not lined with people from idle curiosity. The church was not crowded with strangers and those irreverent, but with neighbors and with friends who loved him for what he was. The sorrow that spoke so eloquently on every hand was mindful of a man rich in power and author of large public deeds; yet, most of all, it told

of one whose daily life was an inspiration; whose handshake was an expression of good will; whose greeting was a perennial benediction.

Great legislative bodies have adjourned out of respect to the memory of a man eminent in statecraft; flags have been placed at half-mast when he has fallen who has led armies to battle; days have been set apart for mourning by executive bidding in honor of those whom history calls great; but the tears that flow from children's eyes and the sobs that burst from the lips of the lowly tell of the worth of a man and tell as words can not tell of the tenderness and sympathy which, more than all else, make souls of mortal akin to power divine.

Such is my humble tribute to the memory of our late friend and colleague, GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT.

ADDRESS OF MR. JOHNSON, OF SOUTH CAROLINA

MR. SPEAKER: We are assembled on this beautiful, holy day, in the House of Representatives, not to engage in keen, cutting, acrimonious debate, not to discuss great questions of state, but to pay the last fond, deserved tribute of respect to our deceased colleague, GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT, late the Representative in this body from the Second Congressional district of South Carolina. It is fit and meet that we should cherish the memory and emulate the example of such as have made themselves eminent and conspicuous in good words, good works, and high character.

GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT, the subject of this memorial occasion, was born in Newburg, S. C., December 20, 1846. After attending the schools of his county he entered the South Carolina Military Academy at Charleston, where he remained for three years, during which time he pursued his studies with painstaking fidelity. This was during the most stubborn and sanguinary conflict in modern times. The South being hard pressed, young CROFT, like thousands of other boys of tender age but patriotic zeal, offered his young life on the altar of his country. The student's cap was doffed, the soldier's uniform was donned. When that great struggle was over and the South had lost all save honor; when the Stars and Bars went down before superior numbers and more abundant resources; when the "bonnie blue flag" was furled and its silken folds could no more kiss the morning sunbeams of our Southern clime, the manly soldier boy again became the student. He completed his education at

the University of Virginia and settled at Aiken, S. C., for the practice of his chosen profession—the law. The first few years of his professional life were the darkest days in the history of our State. Here and now I shall not enter into details. After the long, dark night came a brighter morn. In 1870 Wade Hampton, assisted by able lieutenants like GEORGE W. CROFT, noted for their courage, their caution, and judgment, by a bloodless revolution, but nevertheless a revolution the like of which no State in this Union ever had, redeemed the proud old State. In that struggle every Carolinian did his duty; but few did as much as Mr. CROFT.

As a lawyer Mr. CROFT attained preeminent success. His clientage was large, and he was zealous, faithful, and efficient. As an evidence of his high character and ability, he was for several years president of the South Carolina Bar Association, a position of honor given only to such as are distinguished for their legal ability and noted for their high character.

The people of Aiken County expressed their appreciation of and their confidence in him by sending him both to the house of representatives and the State senate of South Carolina. Having shown himself faithful in every trust, the people of the Second Congressional district elected him to the Fifty-eighth Congress. In entering this body, where intellectual giants and gladiators have met, his legal attainments, his legislative experience, his literary culture, his high character, assured him a career of great usefulness, influence, power. His horizon to our ken seemed to widen, broaden; but an all-wise and all-good Providence decreed otherwise. After only a few weeks here the final summons came. CROFT, so often the advocate of his fellows, appeared with the Advocate divine; CROFT, the law-maker, appeared before the great Lawgiver; CROFT, who had so often and eloquently pleaded in chancery for righteous

decrees, appeared before the Perfect Chancellor to receive his final decree.

Mr. Speaker, these memorial exercises in honor of the dead should impress the living and teach us how to live. The angel of death comes with unerring and equal pace to the cottage and to the palace. He claims for his own the old, the middle-aged, the young. Dives in his purple and Lazarus in his rags can not escape his touch. At the final summons the orator ceases to be eloquent, the philosopher ceases to be wise, and the giant is shorn of his strength. It is the beginning and the end—the end of this life of probation, the beginning of a higher, better life. “That which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die, and that which thou sowest thou sowest not that body that shall be.” In Christian faith and courage let us live on and work on, not seeking nor yet fearing the final summons. Let each say and feel with Adams:

My last great wish, absorbing all,
Is, when beneath the sod
And summoned to my final call,
Prepared to meet my God.

ADDRESS OF MR. AIKEN, OF SOUTH CAROLINA

MR. SPEAKER: We are again assembled to commemorate the virtues and recount the services of one of our number who has passed within the dark and mysterious shadow. The frequent recurrence of such occasions carries with it a solemn lesson. In the death of our late lamented friend, Hon. GEORGE W. CROFT, March 10, 1904, there is that which mystifies and appalls the finite mind. Scarcely had his feet pressed the goal of ambition, where ripened ability promised most, and where the desire of a lifetime seemed within easy reach, when he was called from time to eternity. Like the great lawgiver of Israel, he threaded life's circuitous path, and at its end "fell on sleep," with but a glimpse of that which ambition had coveted and devotion to duty had won.

From the standpoint of human judgment the death of this distinguished son of South Carolina, when life's fruition, golden and abundant, was in his very grasp, was untimely, for it is with reluctance that man plucks the rose half-blown or the apple just touched with the blush of autumn. But in the broader sense that our earthly existence is, in comparison with the Great Beyond, what an atom is to the universe, what a tiny spark is to the eternal stars, we realize only too fully that the lives of the noblest of earth's sons weigh but lightly in the scales of eternity. We realize that life is but a preparation for death and that death is the door that closes on scenes of care and sorrow to open in the realm of everlasting peace. And He who called us into being, and who marks the way along which our faltering steps are taken, knows best where the journey should end.

While our hearts are bowed under the weight of sorrow, 'tis but human to lament the Providence that has left us lonely; yet we should look beyond the grave to that higher life, where Death's stealthy tread is dreaded no more forever.

Longfellow expresses this thought beautifully in those oft-quoted lines:

Life is real! life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

It is but fitting, Mr. Speaker, that here, at the very fountain head of a temporal power second to none on earth, we pause with uncovered heads to acknowledge the will of Him before whom kings have trembled and empires crumbled into dust. And, too, it is but a just tribute to the memory of our departed friend to recount and spread upon our records those virtues and traits of character which marked him a man amongst men. The highest ideals of this and future generations are drawn from the biography of those who have passed into history.

Mr. CROFT was born in Newberry County, S. C., December 20, 1846. In 1863 he entered the South Carolina Military Academy. He had been there but a year when he left the college walls for the tented field. All the fires of patriotism that burned in his soul were stirred when the Army of the West, spreading fire and desolation in its wake, threatened the homes and firesides of those he loved. Though but a lad, he freely offered his young life to his country, and continued in her service until the curtain fell upon that terrible scene of fratricidal strife.

Nor was he less devoted to his State in the dark days immediately following the war. Realizing that the situation

could be controlled and the honor of the State saved only by the mailed hand, that the best interests of white and black alike rested in white supremacy, he willingly jeopardized life and liberty to remove the rule of the carpetbagger and the ignorant negro, drunk with the lust of power. Above the law of the land, which knew not or understood not conditions in the prostrate State, he heard the appeal of that higher law which would protect property from confiscation and the home from scenes of murder and rapine. It was during this period that, as captain of the Palmetto Rifles, an organization of his county, he quelled the bloody riots at Ellenton, dispersing the black hordes assembled in a spirit of violence and destruction.

In 1866 and 1867 Mr. CROFT attended the University of Virginia. Subsequently he studied law under Governor Perry and settled at Aiken about the time that county was formed.

He has been a prominent figure in South Carolina politics for many years, having served with distinguished ability in both branches of the legislature.

So short was his service in Congress that I deem it not improper to refer specifically to one of the crowning efforts of his service in the State legislature. It was in advocacy of a law prohibiting the employment of child labor in cotton mills. I am sorry that I can not recall, literally, extracts from that eloquent appeal. He drew a picture of the attenuated form and pallid face of the child operative, prematurely old. He pleaded with his colleagues not to allow the God-given graces of youth to be effaced by the thoughtless spirit of commercialism. He urged that education alone meant white supremacy, and that any policy which deprived the white child of this advantage was suicidal to his race. While we do not vouch for the legality of his position, it is but just

to say that it finally met the approval of a majority of his colleagues.

The following extract from the *Barnwell People*, one of the leading papers of the State, throws further light upon this period of his career:

As usual, his advent to the legislature placed him in the forefront of action by his apt and powerful presentation of the questions which he advocated. The State newspaper denominated him "a powerful and eloquent defender of the rights of the common people." He was prominent in representing the interests of the people in the reform antitrust laws before the legislature. He championed the child-labor bill in a speech which was a masterpiece in logic and information, creating a profound impression, it being the leading speech against the employment in cotton mills and factories of children under 12 years of age.

MR. CROFT was elected to the Fifty-eighth Congress from the Second district in 1902, and his record here, all too short, is before you.

A distinguishing characteristic which marked Mr. CROFT's career was a clear-cut, well-defined sense of duty. Throughout his life he never subordinated principle to expediency. As a citizen he was uniformly courteous and gentle, kind and affectionate at home, and loyal to his friends always. As a lawyer he was the peer of the best talent. As an orator, imbued with a deep sense of sympathy for his kind, his utterances were from heart to heart, logical, convincing, eloquent.

It was my good fortune to have known the deceased intimately for a number of years, and I feel that in his death I have lost a true friend. It is, however, this close touch with the dread enemy that checks us in the mad rush of life. While we contemplate this career, so fresh in our memories, so full of promise of even more glorious service, and yet so abruptly terminated, are we not reminded that we, too, must soon be submerged by the ever-approaching wave? We are too

prone to shut our ears to the sound of the breakers in the distance.

We see Time's furrows on another's brow,
And Death intrench'd, preparing his assault;
How few themselves in that just mirror see!

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Finley). The question is on the adoption of the resolutions.

The resolutions were agreed to.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE

MARCH 10, 1904.

DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE CROFT.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. W. J. Browning, its Chief Clerk, communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. G. W. CROFT, late a Representative from the State of South Carolina, and transmitted resolutions of the House thereon.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate resolutions from the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The resolutions were read, as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

March 10, 1904.

Resolved, That the House of Representatives has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Hon. G. W. CROFT, a Representative from the State of South Carolina.

Resolved, That the Speaker appoint a committee of thirteen members to attend the funeral services.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased member the House do now adjourn.

The message stated that the Speaker had appointed Mr. Finley, Mr. Aiken, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Legare, Mr. Scarborough, Mr. Lever, Mr. Loudenslager, Mr. Patterson of Pennsylvania, Mr. Richardson of Alabama, Mr. McLain, Mr. Houston, Mr. Sibley, Mr. Weisse, and Mr. Jackson of Ohio members of the committee on the part of the House.

MR. LATIMER. Mr. President, I present the resolutions which I send to the desk, and ask unanimous consent for their present consideration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Carolina submits resolutions, which will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with deep sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. GEORGE W. CROFT, late a Representative of the Second district of the State of South Carolina.

Resolved, That a committee of six Senators be appointed by the President pro tempore to join a committee on the part of the House of Representatives to take order for superintending the funeral of the deceased.

Resolved, That the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Will the Senate agree to the resolutions?

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

The President pro tempore appointed as the committee on the part of the Senate, under the second resolution, Mr. Tillman, Mr. Latimer, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Clarke of Arkansas, Mr. Hopkins, and Mr. McLaurin.

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. President, I move, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 4 o'clock and 42 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Friday, March 11, 1904, at 12 o'clock meridian.

FEBRUARY 27, 1905.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE.

The message further transmitted resolutions of the House commemorative of the life and public services of Hon. GEORGE W. CROFT, late a Representative from the State of South Carolina.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

MARCH 1, 1905.

Mr. LATIMER. I ask that the resolutions of the House of Representatives in relation to the death of my late colleague in that body may be laid before the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Kean in the chair). The resolutions of the House of Representatives will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

February 26, 1905.

Resolved, That in pursuance of the special order heretofore adopted, the House now proceed to pay tribute to the memory of Hon. GEORGE W. CROFT, late a Member of this House from the State of South Carolina.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House, at the conclusion of the exercises to-day, shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. President, I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The Secretary read the resolutions, and the Senate proceeded to their consideration, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT, late a Member of the House of Representatives from the State of South Carolina.

Resolved, That the business of the Senate be now suspended in order that a fitting tribute may be paid to his memory.

Resolved, That as an additional mark of respect the Senate shall, at the conclusion of these ceremonies, adjourn.

ADDRESS OF MR. LATIMER, OF SOUTH CAROLINA

MR. PRESIDENT: The great pressure of unfinished business upon the remaining time of the Senate, and the lateness of the hour, forbids a lengthy eulogy of the character and accomplishments of the late distinguished Member of the House in whose memory these exercises are held.

It is fitting, however, Mr. President, that we should pause for a moment to pay our tribute of respect to one who was, only a year ago, a fellow-worker with us. The passing away from the activities, ambitions, and hopes of this world of one and another of our friends and colleagues from time to time should give us pause and serve to turn our minds to a not far distant time when we too must lay down all that pertains to this life. We are too apt to forget our mortality in the strife for the rewards of the world, the attainment of ambitions, and the multitude of desires that cause men to care to live. The passing away of friends, an event inevitable, but nevertheless sad and sorrowful, should wrench our minds from these earthly endeavors and place them upon things not of this world, and in the contemplation of their characters and virtues, as well as their frailties and weaknesses, we should find examples to be emulated or pitfalls to be avoided.

Mr. President, there was nothing in the life and character of GEORGE WILLIAM CROFT, so far as I know or have heard the story of his life, which was not lofty and worthy of emulation. His life was one of brave and earnest endeavor to uplift himself and his fellow-men. He was born in Newberry County, S. C., on the 20th day of December, 1846, and died in this

city, as a Member of the House of Representatives, March 10, 1904. He received his early education at the South Carolina Military Academy, from which school he was mustered into the Confederate army at the age of 16 and served until the close of the war. He then took a course of study at the University of Virginia for two years, and at the age of 23 was admitted to the bar and began the practice of his profession at Aiken, S. C., which was to be his home until his death. The principal achievements of Colonel CROFT were in his chosen profession. He became one of the leading lawyers of his State, and during the latter years of his life was engaged on one side or the other of nearly every important case in his section of the State. He was a man of strong character, who dared to do the right at all times, and who never swerved from the course pointed out to him by his conscience. He had a lovable disposition and was deservedly popular wherever he was known. This popularity and his well-known fitness and ability led to his election to the Fifty-eighth Congress.

His service in the House was very brief, yet during the time he was there he had laid the foundations for a useful and active career. He made friends easily, and by means of his engaging characteristics was building up a valuable asset to a successful career in the House—that of a wide circle of personal friends. He was also fitting himself by the acquisition of the parliamentary knowledge and usage so necessary to a Congressional career. His was a steady, energetic, and unswerving purpose to do something for his country and his own fame, and there can be no doubt that, had he lived, he would have made himself strongly felt here, and that his political future would have been rewarded by the highest honors his State could confer upon him.

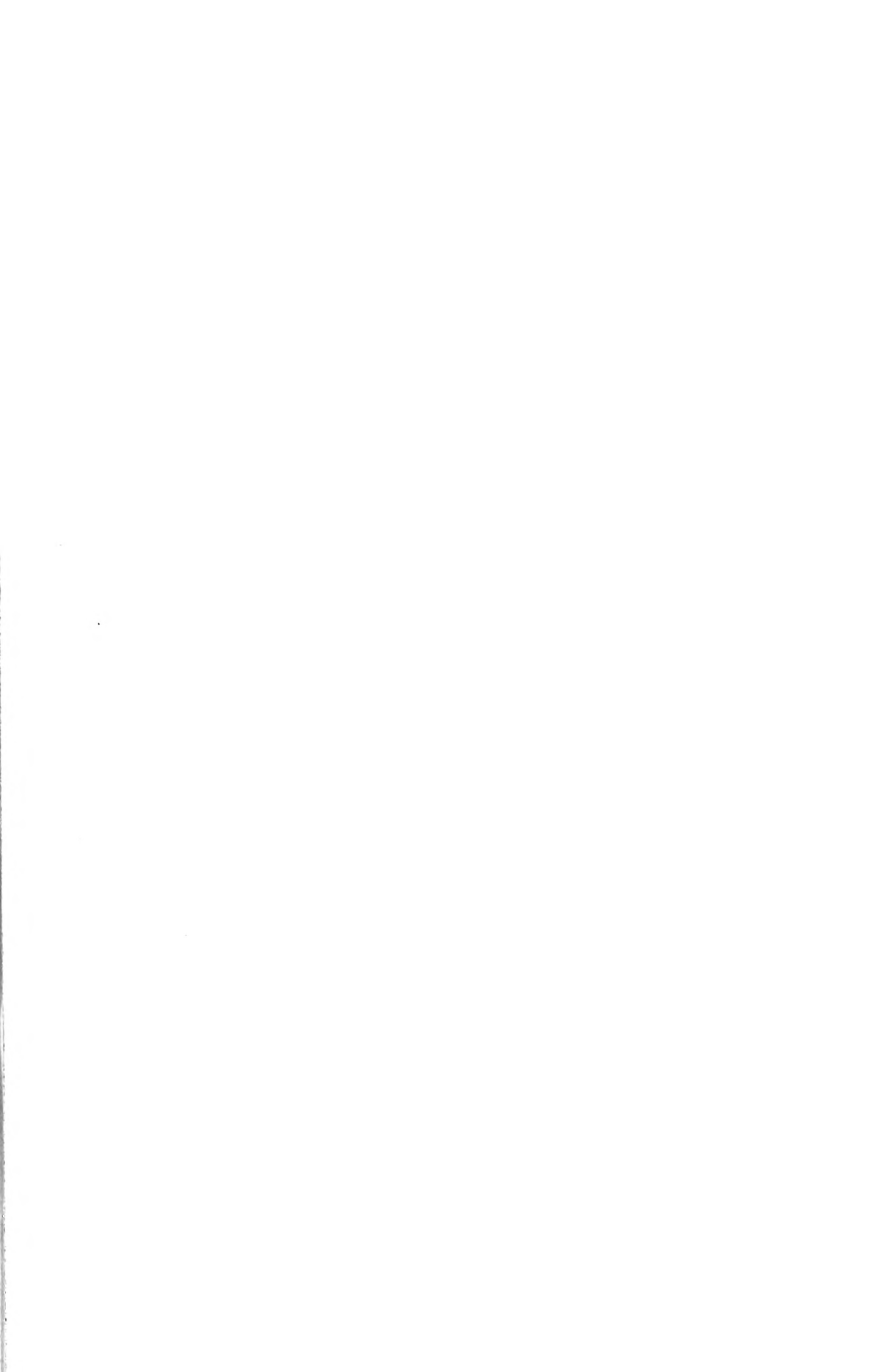
But these things were not to be. All his prospects were blighted and dissipated by his untimely taking off. He developed blood poisoning from an insignificant hurt, and after much patient suffering, and with a fortitude born of a strong spirit, he met his death without fear.

Mr. President, it is with much sorrow for the untimely death of my friend, and a heartfelt and sincere admiration for the many qualities and traits of character and disposition that made him loved by all who knew him and won for him distinction in his profession and honor among and from the people of his State that I move the adoption of the resolutions.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolutions submitted by the Senator from South Carolina.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to; and (at 10 o'clock and 36 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Thursday, March 2, 1905, at 11 o'clock a. m.



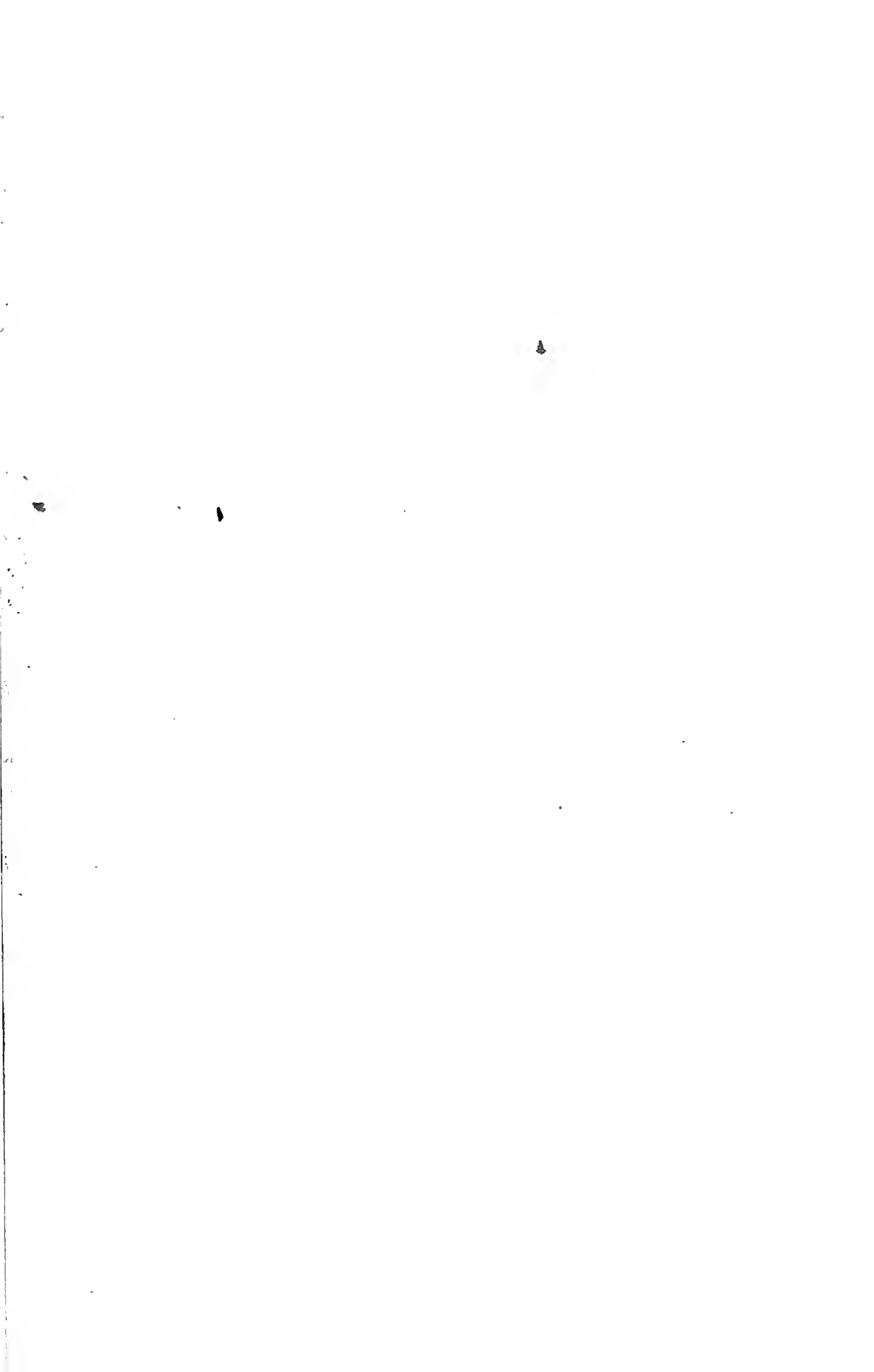












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